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*The Venezuelan American Association  
of the United States, Incorporated*

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His Excellency Carlos Andres Perez  
President of the Republic of Venezuela

RELEASED IN FULL

Dear Mr. President:

The Venezuelan American Association of the United States, devoted for over 55 years to the improvement of relations between Venezuela and the United States, deplores the recent attempt of a faction of the Venezuelan military to oust Venezuela's elected government and expresses its strong support for the uninterrupted continuation of the democratic process.

Venezuela's long tradition of democracy and free expression has made the country one of the strongholds of political freedom in Latin America and an example in the international community. Although the consequences of structural reform and other problems have created enormous difficulties, we are convinced that solutions are not to be found by rejecting democracy. Our organization wholeheartedly supports the continuation of democracy in Venezuela and joins with all Venezuelans in mourning the loss of precious lives and the injuries that occurred in the recent military uprising.

We hereby express our solidarity with the Venezuelan people as they search for solutions to their difficult problems. We have great confidence in the future of Venezuela and believe that economic and political freedom will provide a better life for the Venezuelan people.

The Association will continue its half-century tradition as a forum for the discussion of Venezuelan-American issues and will continue to give its strong support to democratically-elected governments, in Venezuela and throughout the hemisphere.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the Association, I remain,

Respectfully yours,



Robert Y. Stebbings  
President

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